

Submitter: Thomas Brown

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, and Water

Measure: HB4127

When the Wolf Compensation Fund was first created, it was used as a way to allocate funds for non-lethal preventative measures, provide financial assistance to livestock owners who verifiably lost livestock to wolves, and help build tolerance and coexistence. Instead, what we've seen is a misuse, waste and abuse of these funds coupled with a lack of increased tolerance for wolves. The Wolf Compensation Program needs is more accountability and transparency, not more money. That is why I oppose HB 4127. There needs to be better oversight of how the funds are dispensed.

Even worse, this request for one million dollars comes on the heels of the fund receiving \$400,000 from the Oregon legislature, just last year. Instead of issuing more and bigger checks to this program, we need an overhaul to ensure it's actually doing what it set out to do: support livestock operators for direct losses and build tolerance for wolves.

Wolves play a necessary part in a healthy ecosystem and should not be blamed for all livestock losses. Ranchers and livestock owners have to learn how to co-exist with wolves and other predators which help keep the forest and prairie population diverse and healthy.

Thomas Brown